

Interpretive Programs And Other Park Events!

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stuke



Yellow-rumped Warbler

Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

May Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Daily

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

Saturday May 3

Welcome Back Weekend!

***Special Healthy Parks, Healthy People Activities
All Weekend!***

10am INShape Indiana Walk! Join us for our annual healthy hiking tradition. We'll meet at the Beach Pavilion for a moderate hike to Mt. Tom and back along the beach. Free T-shirts for first come, first serve. DG

2pm Global Warming In The Dunes. Join us for an hour stroll into the dune woodlands as we explore how the already ever-changing dunes are affected by global warming. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

8pm Whooo Goes There...! You do on this creature of the night hike. We'll begin at the Nature Center for a short program looking at the owls of Indiana Dunes, then step outside to try to hoot some up! Possible carpool to another owl site in the park if none are calling at the Nature Center. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you. BB



Sunday May 4

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

2pm Techno Scavenger Hunt! Explore the new world of the high tech scavenger hunt! Tag along as we show you how to use a GPS and find some secret caches in the park, in the new hobby of geocaching. Meet at the Nature Center for this 45 minute hunt. Prizes for the kids. DG

Saturday May 10

***Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day
Today By Joining A Local Bird Count!***

10am Geology of the Dunes. The formation of the dunes is an amazing and fascinating process. Meet Dale in the Nature Center auditorium for a fun look at the creation of the dunes and other parts of Indiana. Total time about 30 minutes.

2pm Birding Bonanza! Join the Naturalist as we contribute data to the Porter County Big May Day Bird Count. We'll start at the Nature Center and check several habitats as we make our way to the Wilson Shelter and back. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours as we enjoy the spring birding bonanza. BB

Sunday May 11

10am Birds and Flowers With Mom. Bring mom along for some morning birding and wildflower watching. We'll take a nice easy stroll towards the Wilson Shelter and back. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours, and meet outside the Nature Center. BB

2pm Winged Migration! Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for this amazing 90 minute movie that won the academy award for best documentary. Fly right alongside ducks, cranes, and eagles. Seating first come first serve.

Saturday May 17

10:00am Spring Swamp Stomp. Enjoy a spring stroll through the wetlands of Indiana Dunes. Meet the naturalist at the Nature Center for a look at the frogs, turtles, and birds that call this place home. We'll be out for about an hour. Join us! DG

2pm Turtle Time! Scoot your carapaces into the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun and fascinating look at the turtles that call Indiana Dunes home. We'll explore how they survive this great park. Great program for the kids! DG

Sunday May 18

9:30am Breakfast with the Birds. Join us for our monthly free coffee and donuts as we discuss the newly arrived spring birds. Meet in the Nature Center bird observation room for some casual bird talk, followed by a short, optional hike afterwards for those that are interested. BB

2pm Critter Feeding Time! Flock to the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun time as we feed the Nature Center frogs, turtles, and snakes. Come watch them eat or maybe even help out! Great family program! DG

Friday May 23

6pm Campground Crafts! Send the kids over while setting up camp for an hour of nature craft fun! Join the naturalist at the Campground Shelter as we make some cool crafts you can take back to the campsite. It's sure to be a fun time! DG



Saturday May 24

10am Trek to Mt. Tom! Strap on your hiking shoes as we head for Mt. Tom, the highest point in the park. We'll enjoy a less rugged route and stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Total time about 1 hour. Meet at the Nature Center for a great way to kick off the Memorial Day weekend! DG

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks! DG

3pm Bats Alive! Swoop into the Nature Center Auditorium as we welcome bat rehabber Bob Walton as he explores the trials and tribulations of being a bat. Bob will also have a live bat you can see up close! Great family fun!

8pm Whippoorwill Walk. That's right we're walking for whippoorwills! Meet the Naturalist at the Campground Shelter for an hour night hike looking, and listening, for the dunes' goatsucker! What is it you say!? Join us to find out! Children under 12, please bring a parent. Flashlights suggested for the walk back to the campsite afterwards. BB

Sunday May 25

9:00am Coffee and Birds Meet at the Campstore (by the campground gate) for a fresh air jaunt in search of the late-migrating birds in the area. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Fresh coffee for sale in the Campstore before the hike. BB

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks! BB

3pm Critter Feeding Time. Flock to the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun time as we feed the Nature Center frogs, turtles, and snakes. Come watch them eat or maybe even help out! Great family program!

Monday May 26

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids.

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks! DG

3pm Techno Scavenger Hunt! Explore the new world of the high tech scavenger hunt! Tag along as we show you how to use a GPS and find some secret caches in the park, in the new hobby of geocaching. Meet at the Nature Center for this 45 minute hunt. Prizes for the kids. DG

Tuesday May 27

10am Sands of the World! Join Dale for a fascinating look at different dune sands from around the world. Explore red sand, white sand, black sand and more under microscopes. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium.

Wednesday May 28

10am Dunes in Bloom! Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center for an hour stroll through the dune forest in search of late May wildflowers. We hope to find May apples, geraniums, violets, and more! Join us! BB

Thursday May 29

3pm Friend or Foe? Come and learn what insects are beneficial and which ones you should stay away from. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium for this 30 minute program. DG

Friday May 30

3pm Survivor Man! Join David in the Nature Center Auditorium for a look at backpacking and what you need to survive a night (or two!) in the woods. DG
8pm Indiana Jones- Search for the Lost Pet Cemetery! Join Brad "Indiana Jones" Bumgardner for an evening adventure as we head out into the fading light in search of the famed Dunes Pet Cemetery. Children under 12, please bring a parent. Flashlights suggested for the walk back to the campsite afterwards. BB

Saturday May 31

11am Prairie Club 100th Anniversary Party and Walk! Join the Indiana Dunes State Park and the Prairie Club for a 100th anniversary party. The activities will take place at the Beach Pavilion. 100 years ago almost to the day, the first Prairie Club dune hike occurred right here in what is now the state park. A special program with cake and punch will be offered. Afterwards, the public is welcome to join the Prairie Club in a modern hike into the dunes and back. An alternate hike will also be offered for those wanting an easier terrain. Join us for the celebration!

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks!

3pm Wetland Stroll. Join us at the Nature Center for an easy hour stroll into the dunes marshes. We'll explore the plants and animals that live in this special place along the way. Join us!

Sunday June 1

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids.

1pm Hoosier Quest Patch Program. Visit the Nature Center to find out how you (and your family) can earn special patches and pins (and other prizes) in the state parks!

3pm Mt. Tom Bound! Strap on your hiking shoes as we head for Mt. Tom, the highest point in the park. We'll enjoy a less rugged route and stop to enjoy the sights and sounds along the way. Total time about 1 hour. Meet at the Nature Center.



Reserve a special hike or program for your group!

Naturalists have been helping visitors get the most from their duneland adventures since 1931. Separate from public programming, the interpretive naturalist service of the park remains available today, revealing the secrets of the dunes to school, church, company, and scout groups year round with a variety of tailored programs and hikes. For a \$1.00 per person fee, reservations can be made from 6 months to two weeks in advance. The Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center is now scheduling spring field trips! Call the Nature Center and schedule your group's adventure today! (219) 926-1390